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Reports from seventeen states show a decided preference for certain standard varieties of vegetables, but they also show that a large number of varieties are being planted locally. Several of the seedsmen have inaugurated the plan of reducing the number of varieties offered in their catalogues and of improving the strains that are being offered. It is the belief that the number of varieties of vegetables grown for the market could be very materially reduced without loss, in fact, such reduction would result in a greater conformity to grades and pack.

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Office of Horticultural Investigations
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Commercial Varieties of Vegetables.

Some months ago we sent out a request for information as to the leading varieties of vegetables grown commercially, but had responses from only seventeen states. The answers given to the questions indicate two things, first, that certain standard varieties of vegetables are grown almost universally throughout the country, and, second, that there were in addition to these standards quite a wide range of varieties being grown locally, also standard varieties being exploited under local names. There is always that tendency to develop a strain of some well known variety under a local name. As a rule, these local strains are named after the person who has been instrumental in developing them, but after all these are old varieties or selections of old varieties given local names. This re-naming of old varieties is leading to untold confusion. It is our belief that the existing number of varieties of any vegetable could be considerably reduced without materially affecting the production or sale of that particular vegetable, in fact, the limiting of production to a few well established varieties would prove an important step in the matter of standardizing production and making it possible to establish dependable grades.

Among the varieties that stand out most prominently in the responses that we have had from the states are Stringless Green Pod beans, Crosby's Egyptian beet, Copenhagen Market cabbage, Danvers Half Long carrot, Stowell's Evergreen corn, Big Boston lettuce, Prizetaker onion, Irish Cobbler potatoes and Earliana tomatoes.

The greatest variation from the standards is where crops are being grown for special purposes like peas, tomatoes and beans for canning, and in climates like the Pacific northwest and parts of the south. The whole survey, however, limited though it is, indicates that so far as the commercial vegetable industry is concerned, the number of varieties now offered by the seedsmen could be reduced very materially without inconvenience to anyone and probably with marked advantage to everybody.

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Varieties of Vegetables.

An analysis of the reports received show the following varieties of the various crops to be in most universal use.

Asparagus: The Washington strains, including the Washington, Martha Washington and Mary Washington is reported as being planted in 14 of the 17 states; Palmetto in 13 states; Argenteuil in 2; Conover's Colossal in 2 and Reading Giant in 3. In the states reporting, the Washington strains and Palmetto are most important. Recent inquiry has been for the most part for the Mary Washington.

Beets: Crosby's Egyptian is reported as being a leader in 13 of the 17 states reporting; Detroit Dark Red in 12 states; other varieties listed in 1 to 3 states are Eclipse, Early Wonder, Early Model, Edmund's Blood Turnip, Crimson Globe, Half Long Blood, Columbia and Harrisburg Market. Pennsylvania leads with 7 varieties.

Beans: In the green or snap beans, Stringless Green-Pod is in the lead, being reported from 12 of the 17 states. Other varieties that are extensively grown are Black Valentine, Refugee, Bountiful and Kentucky Wonder. Among Lima beans and bush varieties, Henderson's Bush is reported from 7 states and Fordhook Lima from 10 states. Among the dry or shell beans the varieties reported upon are Horticultural, Red Kidney, White Navy, and White Marrow.

Cabbage; Among varieties of early cabbage, Copenhagen Market leads, being reported from 11 states. Jersey Wakefield is second, 8 states reporting while Charleston Wakefield and Golden Acre each are reported from 5 states. Winningstadt is reported from California and Oregon. Among varieties of late cabbage, Danish Ballhead is in the lead, being reported from 9 states with Glory of Enkhuizen second, being reported from 4 states. It is interesting to note that the old standard Flat Dutch is reported only by 3 states. Succession is also reported by 3 states.

Carrots: Chantenay is most universally grown, being listed in 11 of the states reporting. Danvers Half-Long is a close second, being reported from 10 states. Altogether 11 varieties of carrots are listed by the 17 states.

Cauliflower and Broccoli are reported from 13 states and the Erfurt or Snowball is grown in all of these. Broccoli is reported from Oregon and California only.

Celery: The reports show that Golden Self-Blanching is still in the lead, being reported from 13 states; Easy Blanching from 8 states; Golden Plume from 5 states and Giant Pascal from 6 states.

Corn (Sweet): For marketing as roasting ears, Golden Bantam is the most popular from the standpoint of the number of states reporting, being listed in 12: Stowell's Evergreen is second, being reported from 9 states; Howling Mob from 6 states; Country Gentleman from 5 states and Mammoth Cory from 4 states. A number of other varieties are reported from one or two states, but the 4 mentioned are the leaders. Sweet corn grown for the cannery is confined mainly to Stowell's Evergreen, Country Gentleman and Golden Bantam, and are reported from all of the states in which corn is canned extensively.

Cucumbers grown in greenhouses or in frames. Long Green, Davis Perfect and White Spine, together with White Spine crosses and some Rawson's Hothouse are grown. For outdoor White Spine, Long Green, Boston Pickling, Chicago Pickling, Prolific Pickling and Emerald Green are grown most universally.

Eggplant: The varieties of eggplant most frequently mentioned are Black Beauty, New York Improved, Florida High Bush and Dwarf Purple. Black Beauty and New York Improved are given as the leading varieties.

Kale: Dwarf Curled Scotch, Tall Scotch Curled, Siberian, Dwarf Green German are mentioned, however, the Dwarf Scotch Curled and the Curled Siberian are most universally grown. In one case Thousand Headed is mentioned.

Lettuce in greenhouses or frames consists mainly of May King, Big Boston and Grand Rapids, depending upon locality. For outdoor Big Boston, May King, New York Iceberg and Iceberg.

Muskmelons: Under muskmelons we have Pollock 25, Pollock 10-25, Knight, Jenny Lind, Hearts of Gold, Tip Top, Netted Gem, Emerald Gem, Osage, Hackensack and Bender's Surprise.

Onion varieties include Prizetaker, Red Weathersfield, Yellow Globe Danvers, Australian Brown, Southport Yellow Globe, Silverskin, Egyptian, Creole, Bermuda and Pearl Pickling. Under onion sets the Japanese or Ebenezer are mentioned.

Parsnips include Hollow Crown as a leader with Guernsey being grown in a few cases.

Peas: Among peas we have listed Alaska, Horsford's Market Garden, Gradus, Thos. Laxton, Little Marvel and Telephone as market varieties and Alaska for the canneries.

Potatoes for early include Irish Cobbler, Bliss Triumph, Spaulding Rose, Early Ohio. For late potatoes, Green Mountain, Rural New Yorker, Russet Rural, McCormick, Burbank, and Netted Gem.

Radishes include mainly Scarlet Globe White Tip, White Icicle, Cincinnati Market, Crimson Giant, French Breakfast and Strasburg.

Squash: Among the early and bush squashes, Golden Summer Crookneck, Patty Pan, Fordhook Bush, and Cocozelle, are mentioned while among late squashes are Hubbard, Boston Marrow, Italian Marrow, Striped Cushaw, Des Moines, and Kitchenette.

Sweet Potatoes: Under sweet potatoes we have Nancy Hall, Porto Rico, Red Jersey, Yellow Jersey, Red Nansemond, Big Stem Jersey, Triumph and Southern Queen.

Tomatoes perhaps show the widest variation as to variety grown of any crop included in the reports. As a greenhouse tomato, Bonny Best is given preference. For outdoor varieties Earliana, June Pink, Early Detroit, Bonny Best, Globe, John Baer, Stone and Norton are given. Under canning varieties the San Jose Canner is given as the leading variety in California, while for the central and eastern states Greater Baltimore, Early Detroit, Stone, Red Rock, Bonny Best and Matchless.

Turnips: Practically all varieties of turnips that are catalogued are to be found in the list, however, Purple-Top Strap-Leaf, Early White Milan, Purple-Top White Globe, Early White Flat Dutch, Golden Ball, Aberdeen, White Egg and Swedes.

Watermelons: Under watermelons Kleckley Sweets, Hungarian Honey, Tom Watson, Irish Grey, Georgia Rattlesnake, Cole's Early, Klondike, Angelino and Thurmond Grey.

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While the above is far from complete so far as the number of states reporting and the crops are concerned, yet it is fairly representative and indicates the wide range of varieties of vegetables being grown throughout the country. Our list includes but one state of the New England group and were we to have all of the New England states represented, it would show a still greater variation, in fact, the report from the State of Connecticut, includes several varieties that are given nowhere else in the list. The same is true of California and Oregon, but taking the middle and eastern section, including Michigan, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, we find the same varieties being largely used. In Pennsylvania, we find a larger number of varieties of the various crops being planted. While the report is of some value as an indication, we feel that it is not sufficiently representative of the entire country. At some time in the future, it may be possible to get reports from all of the states and then compile a complete summary of the varieties of vegetables that are being planted.

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Field Trip of C. P. Close to Georgia and South Carolina
March 20-27, 1925.

In Georgia, five days were spent with Messrs. McHatton, Firor, and Harvey. These extension men have the use of an automobile and a trip of nearly 500 miles was made to visit landscape and fruit demonstrations. The trip began at Fort Valley, the center of the Georgia peach industry and continued through 16 counties, going north to Blue Ridge then east through Rabun and Habersham Counties, and south to Athens. More than 60 landscape demonstrations were seen though all were not examined carefully because of lack of time. These demonstrations include colleges, churches, schools, cemetaries, orphaniges, parks and homes. We did not see so many of the fruit demonstrations, but their influence was evident throughout the trip. Home orchard work in many places has developed into commercial importance and at present the care of one and a half million peach trees is directly influenced as a "spread of influence" result of this line of work. The home orchard work is one of the important lines in Georgia. The fruit and landscape work is in a most flourishing condition and is having a decidedly beneficial influence throughout the state.

The visit to South Carolina was unexpectedly interrupted, but three days were spent with Mr. Schilletter in visiting demonstrations. As in Georgia, the home orchard work has grown into commercial orchards and the spread of influence covers the care of 600,000 peach trees at present. In both states the fruit growers have unbounded confidence in the fruit extension men.

Mr. Schilletter has an especially fine system of office records. The first section is divided into the headings of home orchards, commercial orchards, truck crops, and home gardens. All names of cooperators and notes, publicity, results, etc., are filed under these headings and cross references of all of this material are made to the record section which is filed by counties. Thus all of the lines of work, notes, names of cooperators, etc., of any county are filed in one folder. Anyone can at any time determine in a moment the status of any demonstration being or having been conducted.

There is at present a prospect for a full crop of fruit of all kinds in both states. Some late spring frost injury was done to the blossoms of the very earliest varieties of peaches around Fort Valley, but the growers do not consider this is serious.

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